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MMPs Need to be Complete

Producers and consultants should submit all the required documents with their manure management plans (MMPs), including

- copies of their manure application agreements for fields they don't own or rent,
- manure sampling results if used to determine the nutrient content of the manure,
- the soil erosion calculations(RUSLE2) from the Natural Resources Conservation Service's P index when the P index is required. The P index reports will need to be updated every four years.

Although this information is not needed with many annual updates, it will be required with all original MMPs, all four-year updates and with any P index-based plans. More information is available in an EcoNews Wire story at http://www.iowadnr.com/news/eco/06apr13eco.pdf. A current copy of the MMP form (542-4000) is also on the DNR Web site at http://www.iowadnr.com/afo/forms.html.

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Plan for P Index MMPs starting in September

Producers should be receiving a notice from the DNR before their current MMP needs to be updated to include the P index. The DNR will not be granting exemptions or extensions of the deadlines for the P index-based plans. If you or your client are scheduled for MMPs using the P index, it may be wise to do soil sampling yet this spring. See the DNR Web site for a timeline or more information about the P index: http://www.iowadnr.com/afo/mmp.html#phosphorus or http://www.iowadnr.com/afo/files/pindex_fs.pdf.

Articles on soil testing for phosphorus and the using the P index for MMPs have been published in the Odor and Nutrient Management newsletter on the Iowa Manure Management Action Group's (IMMAG) Web site at http://www.extension.iastate.edu/Pages/communications/EPC/homepage.html. Check current and back issues for articles.